What has Argus launched?
B30 biodiesel for bunkering prices on a delivered, on-board basis for Houston and New York. They are published daily in Argus Marine Fuels and Argus Americas Biofuels.

How does Argus calculate them?
The B30 components include 30pc B99 biodiesel assessed and published in Argus Americas Biofuels, plus 70pc ultra-low sulphur diesel (ULSD) assessed and published in Argus US Products. The calculation also includes delivery, storage, throughput and blending costs determined based on market feedback and reviewed on a regular basis. The B99 daily, spot biodiesel assessment is stripped of the US blender tax credit (BTC), renewable identification numbers (RINs) and low carbon fuel standard (LCFS) credits. The ULSD daily spot assessment reflects Colonial Pipeline’s specifications for 15ppm (0.0015pc) sulphur diesel grade 62. The B30 calculations date back to January 2022.

Are the B30 prices for biodiesel burned in US waters or international waters?
US waters.
Harbour supply vessels — including ferries, tug boats, bunker barges and dredgers, among others — ply US territorial waters burning ULSD. They are also allowed to burn B30 biodiesel made from blending 70pc ULSD and 30pc US-price subsidised biodiesel. Ocean-going vessels such as container ships, dry bulk carriers and oil tankers are currently not allowed to purchase US taxpayer subsidised biodiesel. This is because ocean-going vessels would burn the bulk of the fuel in international waters, instead of in US territorial waters.

Why launch B30 prices now?
The shipping industry is under pressure to decarbonise. International Maritime Organisation-level regulation, combined with changing consumer demand, is driving the switch. Biofuels provide an immediate carbon reduction, without vessels retrofitting, while the industry waits for other alternatives to further reduce emissions, such as methanol, ammonia and hydrogen, to be proven and widely available for bunkering.

New York B30 differential to ULSD

Houston B30 differential to ULSD
FAQ: B30 biodiesel

B30 is mostly priced at a premium to ULSD. But a drop in ULSD inventories, such as the drops observed in May, October and November 2022 in the US Atlantic coast, could cause B30 to switch to a discount to ULSD, driving up interest in biofuels for bunkering.

How are these prices being used by Argus subscribers?

Contracts: Shipping companies can use these prices in term contracts, spot contracts and in contract negotiations with bunker suppliers. Also, internally within organisations, they can be used for transfer pricing.

Risks management: Companies buying B99 and ULSD for blending can use these independent prices for mark to market valuations.

Optimisation: Refiners, traders and bunker suppliers selling marine biodiesel blends can identify shortages/oversupply to manage production and maximise profits.

Analysis: B30 prices can be used to monitor the evolving premium to conventional bunkers and as an input to price forecasts.

What other biofuels for bunkering prices are published in Argus Marine Fuels?

- Singapore B24 assessment based on deals, bids and offers obtained from buyers and sellers. B24 is comprised of used cooking oil methyl ester (Ucome) and very low-sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO).

- Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp B10, B20, B30, B50, B100 calculated prices comprised of northwest Europe advanced fatty acid methyl esters (Fame) minus Netherlands renewable fuels credits plus VLSFO plus delivery, storage, throughput and blending costs.

- Indonesia’s state-owned Pertamina posted B30 prices in the ports of Jakarta, Surabaya, Benoa and Balikpapan. B30 is comprised of Fame and marine gasoil.

To learn more
To learn more about Argus’ alternative marine fuel prices offering, visit our Alternative Marine Fuels hub.

For general queries and to talk to one of our experts, contact: oil-products@argusmedia.com.